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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 15, 2003**

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### **ILLEGAL ALIENS SENTENCED TO 21 AND 24 MONTHS IN CUSTODY FOR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on May 12, 2003, Omar Montano-Cuevas, age 21, of Mexico City, Mexico, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, by United States District Judge Cindy K. Jorgensen, in Tucson, Arizona. Co-defendant Francisco Vega-Vega, also a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment on February 13, 2003.

Montano-Cuevas was arrested along with co-defendant Vega-Vega on May 30, 2002, at a house in Tucson, Arizona which was being used as a “stash house” for illegal aliens in transit. At the house, agents found a loaded 9mm handgun and an AK-47 rifle, along with photographs of the defendants posing with the weapons.

Both defendants were charged with the crime of Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 922(g)(5), and entered guilty pleas. According to Montano-Cuevas, he resided at the stash house and was employed to clean the house and cook for the illegal aliens who were staying there while waiting for transportation to their next destination. Montano also admitted to driving

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approximately one dozen loads of undocumented aliens to the house. Vega-Vega also was employed as a load driver and cook at the house.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector.

The prosecution was handled by Carin C. Duryée, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1026-TUC-CKJ  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-092

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